

Message Text

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USIE-00 EUR-10 IO-03 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 NEA-06 DPW-01 AID-10 OMB-01

PA-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 /088 W

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O R 061150Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9681

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAIGON 20510/1

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT NOV 29-DEC 5,1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL IN MR-1. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, COMMUNIST FORCES CONTINUED THEIR PRESSURE AGAINST 3RD ARVN POSITIONS WEST OF HUE. TO THE SOUTH, NVA/VC ACTIVITY WAS LARGELY LIMITED TO MININGS AND LIGHT ABF. AGGRESSIVE COMMUNIST ACTIVITY INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN MR-2. IN QUANG DUC ON DECEMBER 4, COORDINATED TANK/INFANTRY ATTACKS WERE LAUNCHED AGAINST RVNAF UNITS AT DAK SONG, SOUTH OF BU PRANG, AND AT KIEN DUC DISTRICT SEAT: THE FIRST TWO POSITIONS ARE HOLDING, THE LAST HAS FALLEN. REINFORCEMENT BY THE 45TH REGIMENT NOW PLACES THE ENTIRE ARVN 22ND DIVISION IN QUANG DUC. A MARKED INCREASE IN COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN BINH DINH FOLLOWING THE RECENT WITHDRAWAL OF THE LAST ARVN UNIT HAS FORCED THE PROVINCE TO CHANGE FROM AN OFFENSIVE TO A DEFENSIVE POSTURE. ONE SAPPER ATTACK NEAR PLEIKU DESTROYED AN AMMUNITION DUMP; A SECOND AGAINST PHAN RANG AIRBASE WAS THWARTED. MR-3 EXPERIENCED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MILITARY INCIDENTS SINCE THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, INCLUDING THE DESTRUCTION OF 50 PER CENT OF THE COUNTRY'S COMMERCIAL POL STORAGE CAPACITY (755,000 BARRELS) AT SHELL'S NHA BE TANK FARM. MEANWHILE, ARVN UNITS REMAINED ACTIVE AGAINST ENCROACHING NVA UNITS AND VNAF FLEW MORE THAN 300 SORTIES AGAINST LOGISTICS SITES IN COMMUNIST-HELD AREAS. MR-4 REPORTS A 20 PER CENT DECREASE IN INCIDENTS FROM LAST WEEK'S HIGH POINT. IN SPITE OF SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS BY ARVN 7TH DIVISION UNITS, COMMUNIST PRESSURE IN DINH TUONG CONTINUES UNABATED. THROUGHOUT THE DELTA HARASSMENT, TERRORISM, AND ATTEMPTED LOC INTERDICTIONS HAVE INCREASED. SELECTIVE CLOSING OF OUTPOSTS IN LIGHTLY POPULATED AREAS CONTINUES AS RVNAF CONSOLIDATES, PLACING THE EMPHASIS FOR DEFENSE ON MOBILE RF BATTALIONS. THE WEAKEST LINK IN THE GVN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE OF COMMUNIST REAR AREAS IN CAMBODIA SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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HONG NGU (KIEN PHONG) DISTRICT CHIEF. THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE IN THE FPJMT. A 45 MINUTE TPJMC MEETING ON DECEMBER 4 WAS DOMINATED BY THE GVN, WHICH PERMITTED THIS WEEK A SPECIAL LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHT AS REQUESTED BY THE PRG, DESPITE THE REGULARITY OF SERIOUS COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. TO THESE, HOWEVER, THE ICCS REMAINS OUTWARDLY OBLIVIOUS -- INCAPACITATED BY UNABASHED POLISH/HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM AND CHAIRMAN SADRI'S HESITANT DIRECTION.

PART I: ICCS

1. BEFORE RELINQUISHING ICCS CHAIR TO IRDEL AMBASSADOR SADRI FOR DECEMBER, ACTING CHAIRMAN INDO AMBASSADOR IDRIS ON NOVEMBER 28 GAVE A FEW SUMMARY COMMENTS ON ICCS ACTIVITIES

DURING NOVEMBER, POINTING OUT THAT THE ICCS SHOULD BE CONCERNED BY THE DETERIORATION OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM. DEPLORING THE FACT THAT THE ICCS HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO PROCEED TO INVESTIGATION OF CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS, IDRIS NOTED THAT THIS IS A MANDATORY OBLIGATION OF THE ICCS UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENTS. IDRIS ALSO INSISTED THAT THE PLENARY WAS THE DECISION-MAKING BODY OF ICCS, AND HINTED THAT ITS ROLE SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED BY INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES. AMBASSADOR SADRI, HAVING SCHEDULED THE FIRST DECEMBER PLENARY FOR DECEMBER 7, SUBSEQUENTLY ADDED INVESTIGATION OF THE NHA BE ATTACK TO THE AGENDA.

2. SOME CONFUSION CONTINUES TO EXIST ON CARRYING OUT INVESTIGATIONS. INDODEL HAS PROCEEDED, IN MOST CASES UNILATERALLY, TO CARRY OUT INVESTIGATIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS. HUNGDEL AND POLDEL FIELD TEAMS, HOWEVER, HAVE FOUND NEW BASIS FOR NON-PARTICIPATION IN INVESTIGATIONS BY INSISTING THAT CHIEFS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE MILITARY STAFFS MUST ORDER THEM TO DO SO AND THAT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE CHIEF OF THE ICCS MILITARY COMMITTEE (WHO IS SAME NATIONALITY AS CHAIRMAN) IS NOT SUFFICIENT. IRDEL HAS PARTICIPATED WITH INDODEL IN A FEW INVESTIGATIONS, BUT IN OTHER INSTANCES HAS SIDED WITH HUNGDEL AND POLDEL IN WAITING FOR INSTRUCTION FROM THE IRDEL MILITARY CHIEF. WITH REFERENCE TO NHA BE, WHERE GVN HAS ASKED FOR IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION BY ICCS, IRDEL DECLINED TO JOIN WITH INDODEL IN MAKING AN INVESTIGATION IN ORDER NOT TO DISTURB QTE DELICATE UNDERSTANDING UNQTE, PRESUMABLY WITH HUNGDEL AND POLDEL.

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3. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 1, THE PRG SPOKESMAN DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE THREE PA&E EMPLOYEES WHO DISAPPEARED OCTOBER 6, BUT ADDED QTE FOREIGN GUEST UNQTE OF PRG WOULD BE TREATED WELL AND VIETNAMESE WHO DID NOT OPPOSE INDEPENDENCE OF VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE BADLY TREATED. THIS PRG POSITION DOES NOT APPEAR TO CREATE FURTHER OBSTACLES TO EVENTUAL RELEASE, AND SOME INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SEEM TO INDICATE THE PRG MAY BE PREPARING FOR THAT.

PART II: COMMUNIST COMMENTARY

1. COMMUNIST SPOKESMEN CONTINUE ACTIVE. "PRG" AND DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMEN CONTINUED TO ACTIVELY ISSUE STATEMENTS ON FOUR SUBJECTS: US RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER "PRG" AND DRV TERRITORY; VNAF BOMBING OF "PRG" TERRITORY, PARTICULARLY LOC NINH, WHERE IT IS ALLEGED THAT MANY CIVILIANS WERE KILLED; SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS ABOUT US WAR POWERS LEGISLATION; AND THE CONTINUED PRESENCE IN SOUTH VIET-NAM OF "24,000 US MILITARY ADVISORS" IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENTS ON THESE SUBJECTS WERE ISSUED ON NOV 29, DEC 1, DEC 3 AND DEC 4; DRV STATEMENTS ON NOV 30, DEC 1, DEC 3 AND DEC 5. THE DRV NOV 30 STATEMENT ON US PRESENCE, WHICH ITEMIZED THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF THE "AMERICAN

ADVISORS" IN SUCH FIELDS AS POLICE ACTIVITIES, PACIFICATION AND THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE GVN WAR EFFORT, WAS ALSO SENT TO ALL THE COUNTRIES WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET-NAM, THE UN SECGEN, AND IRAN, BUT NOT TO THE UNITED STATES OR THE GVN. COMMENTARY ON THE SCHLESINGER PRESS CONFERENCE OF NOV 30 CITED THE SECRETARY AS PREDICTING A COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH VIET-NAM AND SAYING THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD ORDER RENEWED US BOMBING IN INDOCHINA TO FACE IT, AND TERMED THIS A "BRAZEN PROVOCATION" TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND AN "INSOLENT CHALLENGE" TO WORLD AND AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. MEDIA OUTPUT SUPPORTED THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON ALL FOUR OF THESE SUBJECTS, AND CITED REPORTS IN THE PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE TO SUPPORT ACCUSATIONS THAT THE US WAS CONDUCTING RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER COMMUNIST TERRITORY AND VARIOUS STORIES IN THE WESTERN PRESS TO BACK UP CONTENTION THAT US ADVISORS WERE ACTING ILLEGALLY IN SOUTH VIET-NAM.

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

2. COMMUNIST CONFUSION ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR NHA BE ATTACK.
COMMUNIST TREATMENT OF THE ATTACK ON NHA BE REVEALED SOME CON-
FUSION. THE PRESS SPOKESMAN OF THE PRG DELEGATION TO THE TWO
PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) IN SAIGON AT FIRST
REFUSED TO COMMENT, LATER REFUSED TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE INCIDENT BUT
TWO DAYS AFTER THE EVENT FINALLY ACCEPTED CREDIT FOR THE VIET CONG.
IN THE MEANWHILE, HANOP RADIO HAD SAID VIET VONG UNITS WERE
RESPONSIBLE WHEREAS THE VIET CONG'S "LIBERATION RADIO" HAD
MERELY REPORTED THE INCIDENT WITHOUT ATTRIBUTING RESPONSIBILITY.
NOW ALL COMMUNIST SOURCES ARE AGREED THAT THE VIET CONG IS RES-
PONSIBLE AND ARE BUSY QUOTING WESTERN NEW SOURCES ON THE SERIOUSNESS
OF THIS BLOW TO THE GNV ECONOMY AND WAR POTENTIAL.

PART III: TPJMC/FPJMT

1. THE PRG PERSISTED IN ITS WEEK-LONG BOYCOTT OF THE TPJMC
DESPITE GVN REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL CHIEFS OD DELEGATION MEETINGS
DECEMBER 1,2, AND 3. A PASSIVE PRG DELEGATION, MINUS GENERAL
TUAN, DID SHOW UP DECEMBER 4 FOR A 45-MINUTE MEETING WHICH WAS
DOMINATED BY THE GVN'S GENERAL HIEP. HIEP TOOK THE PRG DELEGATION
TO TASK FOR ITS BOYCOTTS DURING A TIME OF ESCALATING WARFARE
AND FOR ITS FAILURE TO COOPERATE IN ANY FORM BY WAY OF RECIPROCATING
FOR THE GVN'S GRANT OF ITS PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES. HE THEN AGREED
TO THE PRG DELEGATION'S REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL LIAISON FLIGHT THIS
WEEK AND ASSURED IT THAT THE GVN'S SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WOULD
EXTEND TO A RESUMPTION OF THE REGULAR FLIGHTS AS SOON AS THE PRG
RECIPROCATED BY SHOWING SOME RESTRAINT WITH RESPECT TO THE CEASE-
FIRE. (RESUMPTION OF THESE FLIGHTS ON A REGULAR BASIS WOULD REMOVE
THE CURRENT COMMUNIST ALIBI FOR REFUSING TO PERMIT SUBSTANTIVE
DISCUSSION IN THE FPJMT, WHOSE MEETINGS THEY CONTINUE TO BOYCOTT
OR USE FOR SHRILL PROPAGANDA HARANGUES.) NHA BE CAME LAST ON
GENERAL HIEP'S AGENDA, AND THE PRG REFUSED TO AGREE TO FORM
A JMC TEAM TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT AND EQUIVOCATED WHEN
INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE WITH GENERAL HIEP TO CALL ON THE
ICCS CHAIRMAN TO REQUEST A FORMAL ICCS INVESTIGATION. HIEP THEN
ENDED THE MEETING BY EXCUSING HIMSELF TO MAKE THE CALL ALONE AND
INVITING THE PRG TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION BEFORE FRIDAY'S
MEETING.

2. THE SAME DAY, THE PRG DELEGATION ATTEMPTED TO CALL A SPECIAL

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PRESS CONFERENCE WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE GVN UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT. THE PRG NOTE ACCUSING THE GVN OF YET ANOTHER VIOLATION OF ITS P&I BACKFIRED WHEN HIEP MET WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WHO HAD SHOWN UP AT THE PRG SUMMONS, EXPLAINED THE PRG DEVIOSNESS TO THEM, AND OFFERED THE PRG IN THEIR PRESENCE A PRESS CONFERENCE THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON. THE PRG COULD HARDLY REFUSE, AND THEIR PRESS CONFERENCE WILL FOLLOW ONE SCHEDULED BY HIEP HIMSELF ON DECEMBER 6.

PART IV: MR-1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 80 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK, A DAILY AVERAGE OF 11, AND A VERY SLIGHT DECLINE FROM LAST WEEK'S RELATIVELY LOW TOTAL FIGURE OF 84. GVN CASUALTIES 54 KIA, 213 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES: 142 KIA, 8 RETURBNEES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THE ENEMY CONTINUES ITS PRESSURE AGAINST 3RD INF. REGT. POSSI-TIONS ON THE EDGE OF ENEMY BASE AREA 114 ABOUT 16 KILOMETERS WEST OF HUE. SINCE 25 NOVEMBER THE ENEMY HAS CAPTURED 9 SMALL OBSERVATION POSTS THERE AND FRIENDLY FORCES HAVE WITH-DRAWN FROM ANOTHER 18 UNDER MORTAR AND SMALL UNIT GROUND ATTACKS: COMMENT: WHILE THE INABILITY OF THE 3RD REGT. TO HOLD THESE OP'S IS DISTURBING, THE OP'S ARE CUSTOMARILY MANNED BY ONLY A HANDFUL OF TROOPS AND THEIR LOSS IS NOT OF GRAVE TACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE. END COMMENT.

3. THE MARINE AREA OF OPERATIONS IN QUANG TRI RETURNED TO ITS USUAL QUIET. AN ENEMY REPRESENTATIVE HAS INFORMALLY EXPLAINED THAT LAST WEEK'S SHELLING INCIDENT WAS THE RESULT OF ENEMY TROOPS HAVING EXPLODED A MINE AND THEN IN THE CONFUSION SHELLED GVN FORCES, THINKING THEY WERE BEING FIRED UPON. THE OFFENDING FORCES SUBSEQUENTLY OFFERED THEIR APOLOGIES TO THE MARINE COMMANDER.

4. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

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IN QUANG NAM MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED LOW, BUT ENEMY MINES CAUSED SOME INCREASE IN CASUALTIES, ESPECIALLY AMONG CIVILIANS, AND GVN PATROLS INFLICTED A SLIGHT INCREASE IN CASUALTIES ON THE ENEMY. TWO COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS TO BLOW-UP BRIDGES ON QL 1 WERE FOILED.

5. IN QUANG TIN AND QUANG NGAI CONFLICTS WERE FEW. IN QUANG TIN THE VC ATTACKED A UNIT OF PSDF IN A SCHOOLHOUSE IN WESTERN TAM KY DISTRICT. IN QUANG NGAI MOST INCIDENTS INVOLVED LIGHT MORTARING OF FRIENDLY LOCATIONS. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE VC WILL INCREASE THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE PROVINCE IN ORDER TO GIVE THE NVA IN THE SOUTHERN PART GREATER FREEDOM OF ACTION. THERE ARE REPORTS OF SIGNIFICANT ENEMY UNIT MOVEMENT FROM THE WEST TO THE EAST OF Q.L. 1: 2ND CO. OF THE D-7 BN. FROM NGHIA HANH TO EASTERN MO DUC DISTRICT, AND THE 2ND CO. OF THE 70TH SAPPER BN. FROM WESTERN SON TINH TO EASTERN BINH SON DISTRICT.

6. ICCS:

REGION I TPJMC CHIEF REPORTS THAT THE IRANIANS HAVE DECIDED TO CONCENTRATE ON VIOLATIONS WHICH OCCURRED AFTER NOV. 1ST. THIS CASTS DOUBT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY INVESTIGATION OF THE LOSS OF THE GVN POSITIONS ON BACH MA MOUNTAIN ON OCT. 12. THE ONLY ICCS ACTIVITY DURING THE WEEK WAS THE INDODEL VISIT TO OBSERVE AND PHOTOGRAPH THE SITE OF A SAPPER ATTACK ON A RESETTLEMENT SITE WHERE THREE CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED BY A MINE.

7. IN REGION II THE IRANIANS AND INDONESIANS VISITED THE SITE OF A MORTAR ATTACK IN QUANG NGAI AND AN OUTPOST OUTSIDE OF QUANG NGAI CITY WHICH HAD BEEN HIT ON NOV. 28. IN QUANG TIN THE PROVINCE CHIEF HAS SAID THAT HE WILL NOT REQUEST AN INVESTIGATION UNTIL A "MAJOR" VIOLATION TAKES PLACE IN AN ACCESSIBLE AREA.

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LIMDIS

PART V: MR-2

1. STATISTICAL SUMMARY: A TOTAL OF 121 INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED, UP FROM 111 LAST WEEK. THEY WERE CONCENTRATED IN QUANG DUC (37), BINH DINH (37), PLEIKU (17) AND PHU YEN (14). RVNAF LISTED 74 KIA AND 184 WIA, UP FROM 31 AND 149. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE PUT AT 236 VERSUS 139 LAST WEEK. RVNAF CAPTURED 55 INDIVIDUAL AND 10 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS, AND DESTROYED 10 TANKS. THEY LOST ONE CREW-SERVED AND TEN INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, AND HAD 2 APC'S DAMAGED, AND 2 105'S SPIKED BY ARVN AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE IN QUANG DUC. AIR STRIKES DECREASED FROM 628 TO 292: 176 IN QUANG DUC, 96 IN PLEIKU, 16 IN KONTUM, AND 4 IN BINH DINH.

2. QUANG DUC: THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COUNTER-ATTACKED AGAINST RVNAF UNITS ATTEMPTING TO RETAKE BU PRANG AND BU BONG AND HOLD DAK SONG. IN A MAJOR MOVEMENT ON DEC 4, THE ENEMY ATTACKED AND TOOK KIEN DUC DISTRICT TOWN, THE BASE OF OPERATIONS AGAINST BU PRANG AND THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 53RD REGIMENT. THE HEAD-QUARTERS RETREATED AND IS NOW ESTABLISHED AT NHON CO AIRFIELD, 6 KM EAST OF KIEN DUC, WHICH HAS BEEN REOPENED SINCE COMMUNISTS SHELLED IT DEC 4. RVNAF TROOPS ARE ENGAGED IN HEAVY FIGHTING WITH TANK-SUPPORTED COMMUNIST UNITS AROUND KIEN DUC AND BETWEEN THERE AND BU PRANG ALONG QL 14. RVNAF FORCES ARE STILL IN DAK SONG, BUT AN ESTIMATED NVA COMPANY ONE KILOMETER NORTH OF DAK SONG AND ONE PLATOON SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION, SUPPORTED BY TANKS, CONTINUE TO PREVENT TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD. RVNAF REPORTS

THEY DESTROYED AT LEAST SIX TANKS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE YESTERDAY. COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA TEAMS IN ALL DISTRICTS HAVE WARNED OF IMMINENT ATTACKS ON AREAS WITH GVN TROOPS, AND THERE HAS BEEN SOME MENTION OF THE FORTHCOMING "LIBERATION" OF GIA NGHIA. RECENT FRIENDLY REINFORCEMENTS MAKE THIS UNLIKELY, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING; THE 45TH REGIMENT WAS TRANSFERRED FROM PLEIKU/KONTUM TO DUC LAP YESTERDAY, AND IS DEPLOYING TO THE GIA NGHIA/KIEN DUC AREA. THIS MEANS THE ENTIRE 23RD DIVISION (THE 44TH, 45TH, AND 53RD REGIMENTS) IS NOW IN QUANG DUC.

3. BINH DINH: ENEMY ACTIVITY INCREASED MARKEDLY WITH THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING IN TAM QUAN AND HOAI NHON DISTRICTS. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ARVN 40TH REGT (TRANSFERRED TO KONTUM) HAS FORCED THE PROVINCE TO CHANGE FROM AN OFFENSIVE TO A DEFENSIVE POSTURE. ALL
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COMPANY-SIZED OUTPOSTS IN TAM QUAN HAVE BEEN PULLED BACK TO WITHIN TWO KILOMETERS OF QL 1, AND IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE DISTRICT, AIR STRIKES ARE BEING LIMITED TO THE SAME TWO KILOMETER BAND. PLANS TO RECOVER FROM ENEMY CONTROL 500 HECTARES OF LAND WEST OF QL 1 IN TAM QUAN --LAND WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN USED FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT--HAVE BEEN ABANDONED. DESPITE THE LOSS OF THE 40TH, THE TAM QUAN DISTRICT CHIEF TOLD OUR CONSUL HE BELIEVES HIS FORCES ARE TOO STRONG TO BE OVERRUN, BUT HE THOUGHT NORTHERN PHU MY WOULD BE A WEAKER TARGET FOR THE ENEMY. THE NORTHERN DEFENSE OF PHU MY (THE 208TH RF BN) HAS ONLY 240 OF ITS ASSIGNED 340 TROOPS AT THEIR POSITIONS. NEVERTHELESS, THE PROVINCE CHIEF BELIEVES THAT HIS FORCES COULD SUCCESSFULLY RESIST ANY ENEMY ATTACK, WHICH HE IS EXPECTING BEFORE JAN 1. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE THE 12TH REGT IN TAM QUAN, THE 141ST REGT IN HOAI NHON, AND THE 2ND REGT IN THE BINH KHE-PHU CAT-ANH NHON BORDER AREA.

4. OTHER AREAS: EARLY ON DEC 5, A COMMUNIST SAPPER ATTACK ON AN AMMUNITION DUMP 7 KM NORTHWEST OF PLEIKU DESTROYED A REPORTED 8,000 ROUNDS OF 105MM SHELLS. THE KONTUM PROVINCE CHIEF CONTINUES TO SEND TROOPS ON PATROL IN AN AREA SOME 20 KILOMETERS EAST AND NORTHEAST OF KONTUM CITY. THE TROOPS ARE BEING TAKEN FROM CHUONG NGHIA AND MANG BUK, LEAVING MINIMUM FORCES AT THESE OUTPOSTS. INCREASED ENEMY ACTIVITY ACCOMPANIED A FAVORABLE CHANGE OF WEATHER IN PHU YEN, THOUGH LITTLE DAMAGE WAS DONE TO FRIENDLY POSITIONS. ON NOV 29, A TRAIN WAS DERAILED BY A MINE. THREE COMMUNIST UNITS FROM DARLAC--THE 1ST CO OF THE 394TH BN, THE H6 DISTRICT CO, AND A BATTALION OF THE E-25 REPT--MAY HAVE GONE TO REINFORCE COMMUNIST FORCES IN QUANG DUC. A LATE REPORT FROM NINH THUAN SAYS THAT COMMUNIST SAPPERS PENETRATED THE PERIMETER OF THE PHAN RANG AIRBASE ON NOV 25, BUT WERE PUT TO FLIGHT BY FRIENDLY FIRE. IN KHANH HOA, CAPTURED ENEMY DOCUMENTS INDICATE THE COMMUNISTS PLAN TO SHELL THE DIEN KHANH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND THE NHA TRANG AIR BASE AT AN UNSPECIFIED TIME. LOCAL ARTILLERY HAS BEEN SIGHTED ON TRADITIONAL COMMUNIST FIRING SITES IN ANTICIPATION. THE DEFENSE OF POL FACILITIES IN NHA TRANG AND ELSEWHERE IN MR 2 HAS BEEN

TIGHTENED FOLLOWING THE RECENT UNPLEASANTNESS AT NHA BE.

5. ICCS: OFFICIAL ACTIVITY IN TRUCE REGION 3 CONTINUES TO BE BLOCKED BY THE EASTERN EUROPEANS. THE INDONESIAN CHIEF DELEGATE, COL. DADING, TOLD OUR CONSUL IN PLEIKU ON NOV 29 THAT SOME 53 COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN FILED, BUT NONE HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED. CONFIDENTIAL

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DADING HAS REPEATEDLY URGED THE COMMENCEMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS ONLY TO BE TOLD BY THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS THAT INVESTIGATIONS WERE IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL THEY WERE INSTRUCTED BY THEIR CHIEFS IN SAIGON. HE SAID HE HAD SHOWN THEM A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SAIGON CHAIRMAN WHICH REQUESTED THE REGIONS TO BEGIN INVESTIGATIONS., BUT THAT THIS ONLY IRKED THE OBSTRUCTIONISTS WITHOUT PRODDING THEM TO ACTION. THE COLONEL HAS ASKED HIS AMBASSADOR TO FIND OUT WHAT IS PREVENTING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS. THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS HAVE SENT RESIDENT TEAMS TO CAM RANH, AND THE INDONESIANS CONTINUE TO SPEND ONE NIGHT A WEEK IN BEN HET. ON NOV 27, THE PHAN THIET HEADQUARTERS OF TRUCE REGION 4 RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION FROM SAIGON HEADQUARTERS, SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN (INDONESIAN), WHICH SAID THAT THE ICCS SHOULD NOT CONDUCT FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF A SECURITY GUARANTEE OR LIASON OFFICER PROVIDED BY THE PRG.

PART VI: MR-3

1. THIS WEEK MR 3 EXPERIENCED 200 MILITARY INCIDENTS, THE GREATEST NUMBER SINCE CEASE-FIRE II. MILITARY CONFRONTATIONS WERE NOT ONLY GREATER IN NUMBER, BUT MORE INTENSE, INVOLVING LARGER UNITS AND HEAVIER ATTACKS BY FIRE. THE MOST DAMAGING BLOW TO THE GVN WAS THE DECEMBER 3RD ATTACK ON THE NHA BE FUEL STORAGE DEPOT, JUST SIX MILES SOUTH OF SAIGON, WHERE FIRST REPORTS SET LOSSES AT 70 PERCENT OF THE INSTALLATION.

2. THERE WERE 46 GROUND ATTACKS OF WHICH FOUR INVOLVED COMPANY OR LARGER SIZE COMMUNIST UNITS. ATTACKS BY FIRE JUMPED TO 68 (38 LAST WEEK) OF WHICH 12 WERE OVER 20 ROUNDS. THERE WERE FIVE COMBINED GROUND AND FIRE ATTACKS. MININGS ROSE TO 56 (39 LAST WEEK) AND THERE WERE 25 MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS. GVN CASUALTIES INCREASED FROM 212 LAST WEEK TO 267 (46 KIA, 221 WIA) WITH 15 MIA. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE SET AT 78 KIA AND TWO CIA. THERE WERE EIGHT RALLIERS. INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN ALL PROVINCES WITH THE HEAVIST CONCENTRATION OCCURRING IN THE WESTERN PORTION OF MR3. HAU NGHIA REPORTED 47 (25 LAST WEEK), TAY NINH 30 (12), BIEN HOA 31 (22), AND BINH DUONG 26 (26).

3. ACCORDING MR 3 HEADQUARTERS, VNAF FLEW 368 SORTIES IN THE REGION DURING THE PERIOD NOV 27 TO DEC 3. MOST SIGNIFICANT AIR ATTACKS HIT THE LOC MINH AREA WITH 95 AIRCRAFT BOMBING COMMUNIST CONFIDENTIAL

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STORAGE AREAS, ANTI-AIRCRAFT POSITIONS AND BRIDGES ON NOV. 29 AND 69 AIRCRAFT ATTACKING POL STORAGE AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT POSITIONS (16 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS REPORTED) ON NOV.30. BIEN HOA AIR BASE A-2 REPORTED THAT ON MORNING DECEMBER 4 VNAF FLEW 42 SORTIES AGAINST COMMUNIST STORAGE SITES IN BO DUC DISTRICT OF PHUOC LONG PROVINCE IN RETALIATION FOR ATTACK ON NHA BE.

4. ON DECEMBER 3 AT 0230 THE SHELL POL TANK FARM AT NHA BE (SIX MILES SOUTH OF SAIGON) WAS DESTROYED, APPARENTLY IN A COMBINED SAPPER/MORTAR ATTACK. AFTER INITIALLY CHARGING THAT DISSATISFIED ELEMENTS WITHIN THE GVN WERE RESPONSIBLE, THE PRG TOOK CREDIT FOR PUNISHING THE GVN FOR ITS BOMBINGS IN PRG-HELD AREAS BY DESTROYING GVN MILITARY FUEL SUPPLIES. IN FACT, THERE WAS A NEGLIGIBLE AMOUNT OF MILITARY POL IN THE TANKS, WHICH REPRESENTED 45 PERCENT OF TOTAL IN-COUNTRY COMMERCIAL STORAGE CAPACITY. SOME 130 MILLION LITRES OF POL PRODUCTS WAS LOST.

5. REPORTS FROM THE 18TH DIVISION INDICATE THAT TWO ARVN REGIMENTS, DURING THE LATTER HALF OF NOVEMBER, ENGAGED A REINFORCED NVA REGIMENT AND LOCAL BATTALION IN THE PHU GIAO DISTRICT OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE RESULTING IN 56 COMMUNIST DEAD AND SIX CAPTURED. ARVN LOSSES WERE SET AT 7 KIA AND 14 WIA. LARGE UNIT OPERATIONS ARE REPORTED CONTINUING IN THIS AREA. ELSEWHERE IN BINH DUONG WATER SAPPER ACTIVITY CLAIMED FOUR PATROLBOATS OF 52ND RIVER PATROL GROUP RESULTING IN FIVE KIA, 7 WIA AND SUBSTANTIAL EQUIPMENT LOSS. IN TAY NINH, THE KHIEM HANH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS RECEIVED SHELLING FIVE OUT OF THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. PHUOC LONG'S ISOLATED CAPITAL, SONG BE, CONTINUED TO RECEIVE 122 MM ROCKET FIRE DURING WEEK AND THE PROVINCE CHIEF IS PREPARING THE PROVINCE
CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 NEA-06 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 IO-03 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 DPW-01 AID-10 OMB-01 PRS-01 PA-01

DRC-01 /078 W
----- 052368

O R 061150Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9684
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
CONFIDENTIAL

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PART VII: MR-4

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL ACTIVITY: MILITARY
ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA DECREASED SOMEWHAT FROM THE HIGH POINT AT
THE END OF NOVEMBER, WITH A TOTAL OF 297 INCIDENTS REPORTED BY
MR IV (369 LAST WEEK). THERE WERE 41 GROUND ATTACKS (46 LAST
WEEK), 169 ATTACKS BY FIRE (208 LAST WEEK), AND 63 HARASSMENTS
(97 LAST WEEK). GVN CASUALTIES DROPPED: 116 TROOPS WERE
KILLED (139 LAST WEEK), 566 WOUNDED (730 LAST WEEK), AND 42
MISSING (57 LAST WEEK). MR IV HOWEVER CLAIMS INCREASED
VC/NVA LOSSES: 603 VC/NVA ARE REPORTED KILLED (425 LAST WEEK),
AND 58 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (21 LAST LAST WEEK). IN
ADDITION, THE VC/NVA LOST 20 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS (7 LAST
WEEK) AND A SURPRISING 258 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. (140 LAST WEEK;
TYPICALLY THIS FIGURE VARIES BETWEEN 100 AND 150 PER WEEK. SEE
PARA C BELOW.) DURING THE CALENDAR MONTH OF NOVEMBER, ACCORDING TO
MR IV, THE GVN LOST 580 KILLED, 2760 WOUNDED, AND 164 MISSING, AS
OPPOSED TO 2025 VC/NVA KILLED. THE GVN REPORTEDLY LOST 13 CREW-
SERVED WEAPONS AND 544 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. THE SHIFT OF SOME RF
UNITS TO A MOBILE DEFENSE ROLE CONTINUES (CAN THO 863) WITH NEW
REPORTS OF RF REDEPLOYMENTS IN VINH LONG AND BAC LIEU. DINH TUONG
IS STILL THE HOTTEST AREA IN THE DELTA.

(B) DINH TUONG: UNRELIEVED PRESSURE: THERE WERE 127
INCIDENTS REPORTED BY OUR PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE IN DINH TUONG

(164 LAST WEEK), INCLUDING 16 GROUND ATTACKS (21 LAST WEEK) 33 ATTACKS BY FIRE (58 LAST WEEK), AND 20 HARASSMENTS (22 LAST WEEK). ROUTE 4 WAS MINED EAST OF CAI LAY FOR THE SECOND TIME IN TWO WEEKS, STOPPING TRAFFIC FOR THREE HOURS. AN ARVN RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY DISCOVERED BY CHANCE A VC CAVE AND REDOUBT HIDDEN UNDER A CAO DAI PAGODA ALONG ROUTE 29 IN UPPER CAI LAY DISTRICT; AND CAPTURED EIGHTEEN VC AND 30 MINES. DURING NOVEMBER, AT LEAST 70 MINES WERE FOUND ON ROUTE 29 BETWEEN CAI LAY AND MOC HOA IN KIEN TUONG. COMMAND-DENOTATED EXPLOSIONS ALONG THE ROAD INCREASINGLY INVOLVE SEVERAL HUNDRED KILOGRAMS OF EXPLOSIVE. DURING NOVEMBER, DINH TUONG TOOK ABOUT 1700 ROUNDS IN ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND SUFFERED 80 GROUND ATTACKS, WHICH RESULTED IN THE AT LEAST TEMPORARY LOSS OF 16 OUTPOSTS, CHIEFLY IN THE CENTRAL CONFIDENTIAL

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REGION OF THE PROVINCE. GVN CASUALTIES DURING THE MONTH INCLUDED 112 MILITARY KILLED AND 538 WOUNDED, WITH 13 CIVILIANS KILLED AND 17 WOUNDED. VC/NVA LINES OF COMMUNICATION NORTHWESTWARD THROUGH TRI PHAP AND KIEN TUONG AND SOUTHEASTWARD TO KIEN HOA STILL FUNCTION.

(C) SUCCESSFUL GVN OPERATIONS IN KIEN TUONG: ELEMENTS OF THE 10TH REGIMENT OF THE ARVN 7TH DIVISION CONTACTED A LARGE VC/NVA FORCE IN TUYEN NHON DISTRICT SOUTH OF CUEMI "PARROT'S BEAK" ON NOVEMBER 28, AND, IN TWO DAYS OF FIGHTING, KILLED 59 AND CAPTURED A 60 MM MORTAR, TWO ADDITIONAL MORTAR BARRELS, THREE SIX-BARREL U.S. MINIGUNS, AN M 60 MACHINE GUN AND 83 RIFLE BARRELS, FROM A VC WEAPONS ARSENAL. ONE PRISONER FROM THE VC 516 A BATTALION WAS TAKEN. THE 504 RF BATTALION TURNED VC/NVA GROUND ATTACKS (ASSISTED BY 61, 82 AND 107 MM MORTAR FIRE) ON TWO OUTPOSTS AND A VILLAGE CENTER IN KIEN BIEN DISTRICT ON DECEMBER 2 INTO A ROUT, KILLING 10 VC.

(D) DEFENSIVE POSTURE IN VINH LONG: VINH LONG TOOK FIVE GROUND ATTACKS BUT JUST TWO ATTACKS BY FIRE. PROVINCE OFFICERS CLAIM THIS IS INDICATIVE OF THEIR RECENT SUCCESS IN BLUNTING VC PLANS FOR A HIGH POINT. THEY EXPECT RENEWED ACTIVITY BY THE VC D-3 REGIMENT IN THE AREA OF THE MANG THIT RIVER -- AN IMPORTANT LINK IN RICE BARGE TRAFFIC FROM THE SOUTHERN DELTA TO SAIGON -- LATE IN DECEMBER, POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE AN ATTACK ON TAM BINH DISTRICT TOWN. AS ELSEWHERE, SOME VINH LONG OUTPOSTS ARE BEING ABANDONED AND OTHERS ARE BEING TURNED OVER TO PF AND PSDF IN ORDER TO MAKE RF BATTALIONS AVAILABLE FOR MOBILE DEFENSE. INCREASED USE OF PSDF AS OUTPOST DEFENDERS MAY INCREASE THEIR VULNERABILITY.

(E) GRADUALLY INCREASED VC/NVA ACTIVITY IN THE WESTERN DELTA: WITHOUT MAJOR BATTLES, VC/NVA INFILTRATION (SEE CAN THO 0849) AND MINOR COMBAT ACTIVITY, (PRINCIPALLY ATTACKS BY FIRE) HAVE INCREASED IN KIEN GIANG IN RECENT WEEKS. SECTOR REPORTED 127 INCIDENTS IN NOVEMBER, UP FROM 89 IN OCTOBER. AS IN OTHER DELTA AREAS, HARASSMENT ACTIVITIES AND ATTEMPTED INTERDICTION OF GVN ROADS HAVE

INCREASED. ALSO AS IN OTHER PROVINCES, RICE IS A FACTOR IN THE
CURRENT FIGHTING, AND THE VC/NVA HAVE APPARENTLY B

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, MILITARY TRAINING, INFILTRATION, TREATY VIOLATION, PRESS COMMENTS, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: mcintyresh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON20510
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731256/abqcehtu.tel
Line Count: 704
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 13
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mcintyresh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jul-2001 by willialc>; RELEASED <23-Jul-2001 by thomasv0>; APPROVED <13-Sep-2001 by mcintyresh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT NOV 29-DEC 5,1973
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
BIEN HOA
BUDAPEST
CAN THO
CANBERRA
DANANG

PARIS
JEC PARIS UNN
JAKARTA
LONDON
NHA TRANG
PHNOM PENH
TEHRAN
TOKYO
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CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO SAIGON AOSOP-OR
FPJMT SAIGON
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION OF SAIGON
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005